(b) if so, the work done so far in this regard;

(c) whether any exploration work has been undertaken; and

(d) if so, the results achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the survey and exploration component of the polymetallic nodule programme, 70 cruises were undertaken so far with about 11000 samplings in the Central Indian Ocean Basin (CIOB).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The resource potential of the polymetallic nodules of the Area in the Central Indian Ocean Basin is estimated at 380 million metric tons on the basis of detailed exploration.

Reservation of seats in educational institutions for NRIs

1970. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to reserve 15 per cent seats in educational institutions for children of NRIs from the Gulf and South East Asia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some universities have expressed certain reservations in implementing this decision; and

(d) if so, the names of such universities and the objections raised by them?

THE PRIME MINISTER (DR. MANMOHAN SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has decided to reserve one-third out of the 15% supernumerary seats across different disciplines in the educational institutions to be earmarked for the children of Indian workers in the Gulf countries.

(c) and (d) The details sought from the Ministry of Human Resources Development are awaited.